

Region 9 Fact Sheet

Geographic summary

States: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada

Tribes: 148 federally recognized tribes including Navajo Nation

Territories: American Samoa, CNMI, Guam (Pacific Island Territories)

Logistics

Regional Office headquarters: San Francisco, CA

Field offices: Los Angeles, CA; San Diego, CA; Honolulu, HI

Laboratory: Richmond, CA

Staff: approximately 650 FTE

Top environmental priorities and challenges

- The 148 tribes in Region 9 account for 25% of the Native American population and 50% of tribal lands nationwide; Navajo Nation is the size of West Virginia. Tribes in R9 are challenged by aging or absent water and wastewater infrastructure, inability to fund comprehensive waste management systems and other environmental services, and impacts to public health, land, and water from mining in the American West.
- R9 has 113 active sites on the National Priorities List, including former mine sites, sites with vapor intrusion or metals contamination, federal facilities, and many area-wide groundwater Superfund cleanup sites.
- With the largest number of abandoned mines in the country, R9 is remediating mine sites in CA, NV, AZ, and the Navajo Nation. Over \$1.7 billion in enforcement agreements and settlements are being used to assess and reduce the highest exposure risks at more than 200 uranium mine sites on the Navajo Nation. EPA and the Navajo Nation recently finalized a 10-year plan to continue these efforts.
- R9 has more areas not meeting National Ambient Air Quality Standards than any other Region, with ~42 million people living in areas not meeting one or more standard. R9 receives the most State Implementation Plan submittals requiring review and action and has about 140 in backlog. Pollution from heavy-duty trucks, ships, and trains visiting the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach contribute to poor air quality in Southern CA and San Joaquin Valley, two of the most polluted areas in the country for particulate matter and ozone.
- More than 300 drinking water systems in R9 have health-based violations, nearly all of them small systems (serving fewer than 3,300 people) and many in rural and disadvantaged communities.
- PFAS is in groundwater above health advisory levels in all R9 states, some territories, and some Tribal lands.
- To address U.S.-Mexico Border air, water, and land pollution, R9 works with R6, OITA, OW and binationally:
 - to develop, monitor, and close out Border Framework agreements consistent with the 1984 La Paz Agreement (Border 2020 (closing out)/Border 2025 (in development)), and fund pilot projects and infrastructure investments consistent with the Framework;
 - to lead planning under the USMCA to identify, fund, and build projects to solve long-term transboundary water pollution in the Tijuana River Valley while delivering rapid near-term solutions.
- The strategically important Pacific Island Territories are several thousand miles from the mainland, vulnerable to natural disasters, and face unique environmental challenges with infrastructure, materials management and disposal. In addition to supporting the territories, R9 provides technical assistance to the Freely Associated States (Micronesia, Republic of Palau, and Republic of the Marshall Islands).
- In recent years, R9 has been tasked by FEMA to conduct disaster response work following wildfires in CA and typhoons in Guam, Saipan and other parts of CNMI.
- With 25% of the nation's dairies, growing 50% of the nation's produce, and employing 25% of the nation's agricultural workers, R9 is focused on reducing impacts from agricultural runoff, air particulates, and worker protections from pesticide exposure.
- R9's FY20 budget of ~\$621M provides \$464M (75%) in grants, which primarily fund water infrastructure and continuing environmental programs.